

OVER THE YEARS The Native American Indian Film & Video Festival has SCREENED Films about Topic and Characters, Issues that Face LGBTQ & Two Spirited People

Long before there was a Pride Film Festival , There was a Native one in SC

The Business of Fancydancing is a 2002 film written and directed by Sherman Alexie.

The film explores the tension between two Spokane men who grew up together on the Spokane Reservation in eastern Washington state: Seymour Polatkin (Evan Adams) and Aristotle (Gene Tagaban). Seymour's internal conflict between his Indian heritage and his life as an urban gay man with a white boyfriend plays out in multiple cultures and relationships over his college and early adult years. His literary success as a famed American Indian poet, resulting in accolades from non-Indians, contrasts with a lack of approval from those he grew up with back on the reservation. The protagonist struggles with discomfort and alienation in both worlds. There is also a book with the title *The Business of Fancydancing: Stories and Poems* (1992) which was well received, selling over 10,000 copies

Georgie Girl

A documentary by Annie Goldson and Peter Wells

New Zealand, 2001, 70 minutes, Color/BW, DVD

Meet Georgina Beyer, the latest "it" girl of New Zealand politics. A one-time sex worker of Maori descent turned public official, Georgina stunned the world in 1999 by becoming the first transgendered person to hold national office. Born George Beyer, this unlikely politician grew up on a small Tarankai farm and later became a small-time celebrity on the cabaret circuit in Auckland. With charisma, humor and charm, Beyer unapologetically recounts her fascinating life story, shares how she overcame adversity and discloses the reasons she decided to run for office in a mostly all white, conservative electorate. Incorporating an unbelievable montage of colorful archival images dug up from Georgina's days as an exotic dancer, theatre and television performer, this absorbing documentary breaks down stereotypes and promotes greater understanding of transgendered people.

Big Eden is a 2000 romantic comedy-drama film written and directed by Thomas Bezucha. It won awards from several gay and lesbian film festivals, and was nominated for best limited release film at the GLAAD Media Awards in 2002. Henry Hart is a successful gay artist from New York City who returns to his rural hometown in Montana to care for his ailing grandfather. Henry is welcomed back by the townsfolk, all of whom are aware of his sexuality and are highly accepting and even supportive towards him (the film's plot and dialogue is notably devoid of homophobic content). However, during the months he stays in the town, Henry is forced to confront his unresolved feelings for his high school friend Dean Stewart, while simultaneously being oblivious to the feelings of Pike Dexter, the shy Native American owner of the town's general store. The film received awards and nominations from a number of independent film festivals, including a nomination for best limited release film at the GLAAD Media Awards in 2002.

2000 L.A. Outfest: Audience Award - Outstanding Narrative Feature; Grand Jury Award - Outstanding Actor in a Feature Film: Eric Schweig

2000 San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival: Audience Award - Best Feature

2000 Seattle Lesbian & Gay Film Festival: Audience Award - Favorite Narrative Feature

2000 Cleveland International Film Festival: Best American Independent Feature Film; Best Film

2001 Florida Film Festival: Audience Award - Best Narrative Feature

2001 Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival: Jury Award - Best Fiction Feature

2001 Toronto Inside Out Lesbian and Gay Film and Video Festival: Audience Award - Best Feature Film or Video

Two Spirits (2009) Documentary; DVD. Filmmaker Lydia Nibley explores the cultural context behind a tragic and senseless murder. Fred Martinez was a Navajo youth slain at the age of 16 by a man who bragged to his friends that he 'bug-smashed a fag'. But Fred was part of an honored Navajo tradition - the 'nadleeh', or 'two-spirit', who possesses a balance of masculine and feminine traits. Through telling Fred's story, Nibley reminds us of the values that America's indigenous peoples have long embraced.

North Mountain (78 minutes)

North Mountain is a Canadian action thriller film, released in 2015. Written and directed by Bretten Hannam and billed as a "cross between *Brokeback Mountain* and *Rambo*", the film stars Justin Rain as Wolf, a young Mi'kmaq hunter who encounters Crane (Glen Gould), a wanted fugitive, in the forest. The two men fall in love and begin a relationship, which will be tested when the gangsters looking for Crane arrive. Shot near Kejimikujik National Park in January 2015, the film premiered on September 23, 2015 at the Atlantic Film Festival. It is slated to screen at various LGBT film festivals, including Toronto's Inside Out Film and Video Festival and the Vancouver Queer Film Festival, in 2016. In the dead of winter a young aboriginal hunter falls in love with a fugitive ex-con and helps him fight off an army of crooked cops seeking revenge. Wolf, a young métis hunter living on the mountain. While hunting deep in the woods he discovers Crane, an older man with a mysterious past and the scars to prove it. Wolf nurses him back to health. Over time their bond gets deeper and they fall in love. When outsiders begin to show up looking for Crane, blood begins to flow. Cornered by an army of crooked cops, Wolf and Crane work together to booby trap the mountain, taking them out one at a time until they come face-to-face with the man who pulls the strings.... Bretten Hannam's debut feature is an ambitious action/thriller with outstanding performances from Justin Rain (*Defiance*) and Festival favorite Glen Gould (*Rhymes for Young Ghouls*, *Charlie Zone*).

"By Blood" (62 minutes) Directed by: Marcos C. Barbary & Sam Russell

By Blood chronicles American Indians of African descent as they battle to regain their tribal citizenship. The film explores the impact of this battle, which has manifested into a broader conflict about race, identity, and the sovereign rights of indigenous people. The film demonstrates both sides of the battle, the shared emotional impact of the issue, and the

rising urgency of the debate: a Native American and African American history has been overlooked, and a tribal body feels as though their sovereignty is under siege.

Sex Spirit Strength (45 min) Courtney Montour, Director

A documentary about reclaiming healthy sexuality, among the indigenous people of Canada. **Sex Spirit Strength** follows Michael and Jack, two young Indigenous men, as they shed the stigma and shame associated with their sexual health and gender identity. Michael, a former addict who lived a high-risk lifestyle that left him with permanent scars, hopes his activism work will discourage other young people from going down the same path. Jack, a transgender gay man, is committed to bringing pride back to two-spirit identity through education and activism. With a compassionate lens, **Sex Spirit Strength** takes a candid look at the challenges and triumphs of these two brave young men as they reconcile their past, embrace their identities, and strive to make a positive difference in their communities. Indigenous peoples face some of the highest rates of sexual and physical violence, substance abuse, HIV and suicide in all of Canada. But statistics never tell the whole story.

A panel discussion or FilmTalk focused on the LGBT community and Issues, as part of the 18th Annual native American Indian Film & Video Festival of the Southeast, which will have screenings at Russell House theater on November 23. One of the specific films will be the **US National Premiere of Sex Spirit and Strength** a With a compassionate lens, **Sex Spirit Strength** takes a candid look at the challenges and triumphs of these two brave young LGBT men as they reconcile their past, embrace their identities, and strive to make a positive difference in their communities!

Southerners On New Ground (SONG) is a regional Queer Liberation organization made up of people of color, immigrants, undocumented people, people with disabilities, working class and rural and small town, LGBTQ people in the South.